

Ranger-led Programs

Lake McDonald Valley

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



SUNDAY, JUNE 1

1:30 pm Amazing Animals Talk
2:30 pm Creekside Stroll

MONDAY, JUNE 2

10:00 am Johns Lake Loop Hike
1:30 pm Amazing Animals Talk
1:30 pm Lake McDonald Boat Tour
2:30 pm Wandering in Nature
3:00 pm Lake McDonald Boat Tour

TUESDAY, JUNE 3

10:00 am Rocky Point Ramble
1:30 pm Amazing Animals Talk
1:30 pm Lake McDonald Boat Tour
2:00 pm Creekside Stroll
3:00 pm Lake McDonald Boat Tour

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

9:30 am Avalanche Lake Hike
1:30 pm Lake McDonald Boat Tour
2:00 pm Changing Landscapes
3:00 pm Lake McDonald Boat Tour

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

1:30 pm Lake McDonald Boat Tour
3:00 pm Lake McDonald Boat Tour
8:30 pm Lodge Evening Program

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

10:00 am Johns Lake Loop Hike
1:30 pm Lake McDonald Boat Tour
3:00 pm Lake McDonald Boat Tour
4:00 pm Rocky Point Ramble
8:30 pm Lodge Evening Program

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

9:30 am Avalanche Lake Hike
1:30 pm Amazing Animals Talk
1:30 pm Lake McDonald Boat Tour
3:00 pm Ranger's Choice Talk
3:00 pm Lake McDonald Boat Tour
3:30 pm Creekside Stroll
8:00 pm Apgar Evening Talk

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

10:00 am Creekside Stroll
10:30 am Wildlife Encounters Talk
1:30 pm Amazing Animals Talk
1:30 pm Lake McDonald Boat Tour
2:00 pm Johns Lake Loop
3:00 pm Lake McDonald Boat Tour
8:30 pm Lodge Evening Program

MONDAY, JUNE 9

7:30 am Winged Wonders Bird Walk
1:30 pm Lake McDonald Boat Tour
2:30 pm From Seeds to Cedars
3:00 pm Lake McDonald Boat Tour
8:00 pm Apgar Evening Program
9:00 pm Fish Creek Evening Program

TUESDAY, JUNE 10

8:00 pm Apgar Evening Program
8:30 pm Lodge Evening Program

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

1:30 pm Amazing Animals Talk
1:30 pm Lake McDonald Boat Tour
2:00 pm Johns Lake Loop Hike
3:00 pm Lake McDonald Boat Tour
3:30 pm Ranger's Choice Talk
9:00 pm Fish Creek Evening Program

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

9:00 am Avalanche Lake Hike
1:30 pm Lake McDonald Boat Tour
3:00 pm Lake McDonald Boat Tour
3:30 pm Ranger's Choice Talk
8:00 pm Apgar Evening Talk
8:30 pm Lodge Evening Program

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

Rangers in Training

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

9:00 am Journey to Apgar Lookout
9:30 am Junior Ranger Explorers Walk
10:00 am Discovery Cabin (10 am-4pm)

Talks & Evening Programs



Amazing Animals

Explore the natural history and adaptations of some of Glacier's most interesting inhabitants.

Discovery Cabin talk area

(Pathway located 100 yards north of the Backcountry Permit Center in Apgar Village)

30 minutes

Apgar Campground Evening Talk

Join us on the shore of Lake McDonald for an exploration of Glacier's natural and cultural history. Bring the family for an interesting look at this incredible place. Check bulletin boards for specific topics. Non-campers welcome. Limited parking space available.

Apgar Campground Amphitheater

45 minutes

Fish Creek Campground Evening Program

Sit back, relax, and uncover the diversity of Glacier. Topics range from bears to birds, history to seasonal changes, and much more. Check bulletin boards for specific topics. Non-campers welcome. Limited parking space available.

Fish Creek Campground Amphitheater

45 minutes

Lake McDonald Lodge Evening Program

Spend an evening discovering the many wonders of Glacier National Park. Check bulletin boards for specific topics. All park visitors welcome.

Lake McDonald Lodge Auditorium

45 minutes

Native America Speaks

Learn what makes tribal culture so unique in this region. Members of the Salish, Kootenai, Pend d'Oreille, and Blackfoot Tribes share their cultural histories and traditions with the visitors of Glacier National Park. Non-campers welcome. Limited parking space available.

Apgar Campground Amphitheater

45 minutes

Ranger's Choice

Uncover the unique aspects of the park. Join a ranger and explore a topic of his/her choice.

Discovery Cabin talk area

(Pathway located 100 yards north of the Backcountry Permit Center in Apgar Village)

30 minutes

Wildlife Encounters Talk

Discover how to explore the park safely amongst the wildlife roaming the wilderness.

Apgar Visitor Center

15 minutes



Keep wildlife wild—a deer searching for food at a campground

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Walks & Hikes



Avalanche Lake Hike

Journey through a majestic old growth forest to scenic Avalanche Lake and uncover the intricacies of this unique environment.

Avalanche Creek roadside parking area on the Going-to-the-Sun Road

3½ hours, moderate 5-mile hike (8 km)

Changing Landscapes

Unearth the forces that build and shape the dramatic scenery in the park.

Second Pullout 0.7 miles north of North Lake McDonald Road on the Going-to-the-Sun Road

(2 miles north of Lake McDonald Lodge)

2 hours, easy 2-mile walk (3.2 km)

Creekside Stroll

Enjoy a casual stroll through diverse habitats along lower McDonald Creek and uncover an abundance of life.

Backcountry Permit Center sign (Apgar Village)

2 hours, easy 1.75-mile walk (2.8 km)

From Seeds to Cedars

Discover Glacier's wildflowers, trees, and other plant life found in this dynamic landscape.

Lower McDonald Creek Bridge (Camas Road)

2 hours, moderate 2-mile hike (3.2 km)

Johns Lake Loop Hike

Explore striking cedar-hemlock forests, quiet lakes, and roaring cascades on this leisurely hike.

Johns Lake trailhead

(1.5 miles north of the Lake McDonald Lodge on the Going-to-the-Sun Road)

2 hours, easy 3-mile walk (4.8 km)

Journey to Apgar Lookout

Ascend through an emerging forest to a mountain summit and find inspiration in the breathtaking views from a historic fire tower.

Apgar Lookout trailhead

(Turn on Quarter Circle Bridge Road 0.5 mile north of the West Entrance and continue ~2.5 miles)

5 hours, strenuous 6.6-mile hike (10.6 km)

Nurturing Native Plants

Take an intimate look at how plants are grown in the park's Native Plant Nursery and used in revegetation projects throughout the park.

Park Headquarters flagpole

1½ hours, easy walking tour

Rocky Point Ramble

Relish in the splendors and beautiful views as we travel along an ever-changing trail to the shores of Lake McDonald.

Rocky Point trailhead

(0.25 mile north of Fish Creek Campground Kiosk on the Inside North Fork Road)

2 hours, moderate 2.25-mile hike (3.6 km)

Wandering in Nature

Discover the intricacies of the forest on this accessible trail.

Apgar Visitor Center flagpole

1 hour, easy 1-mile walk (1.6 km)

Winged Wonders Bird Walk

Locate, identify, and learn about several of Glacier's most fascinating residents—the birds. Bring binoculars.

Make reservations, in person, up to three days in advance at the Apgar Visitor Center. Ask about accessibility.

2 hours, easy 1.5-mile bird walk (2.4 km)



Historic DeSmet

NPS / JONATHAN RINER

Children's Programs



Children's programs are designed specifically for families and children. Children must be accompanied by an adult while in attendance.

Junior Ranger Discovery Talk

Discover what makes Glacier National Park special during this hands-on, interactive talk.

Discovery Cabin

(Pathway located 100 yards north of the Backcountry Permit Center in Apgar Village)

20-30 minutes

Junior Ranger Explorers Walk

Explore the fascinating connections between the plants, animals, and non-living material on this interactive hike. Ages 6 and up.

Discovery Cabin

(Pathway located 100 yards north of the Backcountry Permit Center in Apgar Village)

1½ hours, easy 1.5-mile walk (2.4 km)

Drop-in Programs



Park rangers will be available during the times listed. "Drop-in" and see what we are up to. Stay for a minute or stay for an hour.

Discovery Cabin

Touch a grizzly bear's claws, feel a wolf's amazing coat, or hold an elk's antler. Rangers and volunteers will teach the whole family about the fascinating adaptations of Glacier's predators and prey.

Discovery Cabin

(Pathway located 100 yards north of the Backcountry Permit Center in Apgar Village)

Anytime between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm



Lake McDonald

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Boat Tours



Lake McDonald Boat Tour

Cruise along the dancing waters of Lake McDonald and enjoy a sampling of Glacier's stories aboard the historic *DeSmet*. Arrive 15 minutes prior to departure.

Purchase tickets and meet at the Lake McDonald Lodge Boat Dock. Fee: \$16.25 adults, \$8 children ages 4-12, free for ages 3 and younger. Call (406) 257-2426 for reservations. (Reservations are highly recommended.)